

Carolina's coast due to the Gulf Stream and other major currents. He said that offshore energy exploration could irreparably damage these sensitive habitats.

Cindy Lee Van Dover, Harvey W. Smith Professor of Biological Oceanography, Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University, explained Methane Hydrates and where they were formed. She defined methane hydrates as being gas molecules trapped in a crystal lattice of a water ice, with the methane being burnable and sometimes described as "ice that burns." She reported to the Subcommittee that methane hydrates are the largest reserve of organic carbon on the planet. She then talked about some of the characteristics of Blake Ridge, which is where a large reserve of methane hydrates is found off the coast of North Carolina. She concluded by talking about the conservation challenges, which included preserving the habitat of rare and undiscovered species. She told the Subcommittee that the deep sea community needed to start thinking about some of these conservation issues.

The Subcommittee agreed to have its next meeting in Morehead City and to receive public comments on their views of offshore drilling.

## **Second Subcommittee Meeting**

Agenda - April 27, 2009 – 10:00 AM  
Carteret Community College, McGee Building, Joselyn Hall  
3505 Arendell Street, Morehead City, NC 28557

- I. Welcome/ Opening Remarks  
Dr. Leutze, Co-Chair  
Dr. Rader, Co-Chair
- II. Subcommittee Business
- III. Natural Gas Needs for North Carolina  
Tom Moskitis: Managing Director, External Affairs, American Gas Association
- IV. Wind Energy Options  
Bob Leker: Renewables Program Manager, NC Energy Office
- V. Implications of Coastal Energy Production for Inshore/ Nearshore Ecosystems  
Charles (Pete) Peterson, Professor, UNC-CH, Institute of Marine Sciences
- VI. Managing Inshore Impacts of Coastal Energy Production  
Anne Deaton, Head of the Division of Marine Fisheries' Habitat Protection Section
- VII. Discussion: Social, Economic and Community issues related to Coastal Energy Production
- VIII. Subcommittee Discussion on Interim Report
- IX. Public Comment - [4:00PM – 6:00PM]
- X. Other Business
- XI. Adjournment